

Remarks

The above-referenced application has been reviewed in light of the Examiner's Office Action mailed on October 20, 2008. Claims 14-39 have been allowed, and Claims 1-13 and 40 have been indicated as comprising allowable subject matter. The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. Claim 1 has been amended. Therefore, Claims 1-40 are currently pending in this application. The Examiner's reconsideration of the rejections is respectfully requested, particularly in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In accordance with the Office Action, Claims 1-13 and 40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed towards non-statutory subject matter. Claim 1 has been amended.

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a "method for image segmentation . . . comprising: receiving scan data as a plurality of original two-dimensional (2D) scans disposed with a scanning vector normal thereto; selecting an arbitrary viewing vector disposed non-parallel to the scanning vector; rendering the scan data as a 3D image about the viewing vector; displaying the rendered 3D image in an octant view **on an output device**; selecting a range of new 2D image slices with the arbitrary viewing vector disposed normal thereto from within the octant view of the 3D image; performing 2D segmentation on the selected slices to obtain a segmented 3D object; and displaying the segmented 3D object **on the output device**" (**emphasis added**). Support for amended Claim 1 is present in

the specification as originally filed. No new matter has been added. Therefore, amended Claim 1 now recites statutory subject matter.

Conclusion:

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that amended independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated above, Claims 14-39 having been allowed. Since dependent Claims 2-13 and 40 each depend from amended Claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are also in condition for allowance for at least the reasons stated, as well as for reciting additional patentable subject matter. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, reconsideration of the rejections and an early and favorable allowance of this case are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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